

Washington Update

March 31, 2004

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1. NASEMSD Comments on National Response Plan

In March, NASEMSD provided comments to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the National Response Plan. NASEMSD noted that the proposed plan is very complex. Although the plan repeatedly asserts that it represents a cohesive and integrated approach, what it appears to do instead is create a giant “virtual” bureaucracy from multiple existing federal agencies. NASEMSD asserts that it is difficult to see how this plan will be helpful at a time of national emergency. Complete comments are available on the NASEMSD Web site at <http://www.nasemsd.org> <<http://www.nasemsd.org>> .

2. Emergency Responders Team Up to Create National Model Mutual Aid Agreement

The National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a broad cross-section of emergency responders have worked in concert to develop a tool to eliminate red tape and allow local communities to better respond to a disaster. Given recent terrorist fears, DHS has chose to focus on mutual aid. In the “National Strategy on Homeland Security,” DHS placed a new focus on stat and local mutual aid as a key to the nations’ emergency response capabilities for all hazards, man-made or natural. Mutual aid also is a key component in the National Incident Management System put forth by DHS. The tool – model legislation designed to streamline the sharing of assistance and resources between communities during a disaster – is available for download at <http://www.emacweb.org> < <http://www.emacweb.org>> . NASEMSD Program Advisor Steve Hise was involved in the development of the model.

3. NASEMSD Signs Letter Regarding CDC Reorganization

On March 22, 2004, ASTHO Affiliated Organization, collectively representing State Health Officials and the various program and policy entities within state public health agencies sent a letter to Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NASEMSD was a signatory on the letter. Discussions are underway within the CDC as part of the Futures Initiative in which options for potential changes in CDC’s organizational and operational structures are being considered. The organizations signing the letter noted that they are available to provide any and all assistance or consultation need to help the CDC in this process. “The organizations we represent can enrich the discussion of any potential substantive change in CDC’s structure and organization,” stated the letter.

4. Comments Requested on “Rural/Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future”

The second draft for public comment of the “Rural/Frontier EMS Agenda for the Future” has been emailed to NASEMSD Members and also placed on the “Agenda” Web site, <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/>. Their comment deadline is April 15, 2004. The deadline is short because input only is being sought on major conceptual issues. NASEMSD representatives on the steering committee for this project include Jim Derrick (NM), Dean Cole (NE), Fergus Laughridge (NV), David Lake (KS), and Greg Mears (NC). Members are encouraged to disseminate the document throughout the states and invite all to comment.

5. State of Washington Position Available

Richard K. Benjamin, manager, EMS Education, Training & Regional Support Section of the Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System for the State of Washington, will be retiring at the end of June and the position will be open. Applications are being accepted until April 26, 2004. This position is responsible for administering the statewide regional support program and the EMS education and training program. The position directs the work of, and administers statewide laws and rules regulating, 39 county and eight Regional EMS and Trauma Care Councils, Prehospital EMS Initial and Continuing Medical Education, Physical Medical Program Directors, Prehospital EMS Instructors, and Prehospital No Code Orders. For more information and complete requirements, call or email Janet Griffith at (360) 236-2832 or Janet.Griffith@doh.wa.gov.

6. NASEMSD Representative Needed for NHAAP

Jimm Murray has notified NASEMSD that he will no longer be available to be the representative to the National Heart Attack Alert Program (NHAAP). NASEMSD appreciates Jimm’s involvement on this project for the past decade. Members interested in representing NASEMSD to the NHAAP should contact Mark King at marking@wvdhhr.org.

7. DHS Awards Billions in Grants to State & Local Governments

In the coming weeks, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will award \$2.2 billion from the State Homeland Security Grant Program and \$725 million from the Urban Area Security Initiative to state and local governments to help first responders better protect their communities. These funds are part of more than \$8 billion DHS has allocated or awarded since March 1, 2003, to help the nation’s first responders and state and local governments to prevent, respond and recover from potential acts of terrorism and other potential disasters. Information about these grants, distributed through the DHS’ Office for Domestic Preparedness, is available at www.dhs.gov/grants

8. DHS to Tie Grants to Interoperability Standards

According to a report in Washington Technology on March 9, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plans to require state and local governments seeking grants to adhere to technical standards and protocol to ease voice and data interoperability at the state and local level. The department wants to promote interoperability, especially in using mobile radio and geospatial data, Steve Cooper, DHS' chief information officer, told attendees at the DHS' Industry Forum in Washington. He urged industry to devote equal attention to protocol issues surrounding interoperability when responding to opportunities in the state and local market. In his presentation, Cooper reviewed initiatives related to interoperability and information sharing, which he said are among the department's top priorities this year. The purpose of the two-day industry forum is to assist the private sector in doing business with DHS.

9. States to Be Funded to Collect Injury Data

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a request for proposals for states to assist in the development of the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES). The request was in the March 11 Federal Register (69 FR 11700-11706). The RFP is limited to states that have not received prior funding for CODES. Under this program, states will link their existing statewide traffic records with injury outcome and charge data. The linked data will be used to support highway safety decision-making at the local, regional, and state levels to reduce deaths, non-fatal injuries, and health care costs resulting from motor vehicle crashes. Applications must be received on or before April 26, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. Direct general administrative questions to Maxine D. Edwards at Maxine.Edwards@nhtsa.dot.gov. Programmatic questions relating to this cooperative agreement program should be directed to Barbara Rhea at Barbara.Rhea@nhtsa.dot.gov.

10. NASEMSD Members Enrolled in USFA CIP DisasterHelp.gov Initiative

For three years, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Program has published weekly INFOGRAMs prepared by NATEK Inc., to promote the protection of the critical infrastructures of emergency first responders. These documents, containing relevant and consequential CIP information, are posted on the USFA CIP Web site at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/cipc/cipc.shtm> and also are sent directly to subscribers. As a direct result of increased national demand, the INFOGRAMs will continue through the next fiscal year. NASEMSD has requested that all state EMS directors and medical directors be enrolled in this program.

11. State Donations Management Plans Available

The Donations Management Subcommittee of the NEMA Response & Recovery Committee has collected and compiled information on state donations management plans. The subcommittee surveyed states to determine who had donations management plans in place and which addressed volunteers in the plans. The compilation of survey responses by state and state plans are available through the NEMA Web site at http://www.nemaweb.org/donations_management/index.html.

12. USFA Offers New Course

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) is recruiting for students for a newly-scheduled offering of “EMS Management of Community Health Risks” (R149). The course will be held Sept. 13-24, 2004, at the National Emergency Training Center, in Emmitsburg, Md. The course targets EMS providers, supervisors, and program managers who have the responsibility for development and implementation of community health and safety programs. Students will develop a community-specific Health Outcome Management Plan with a goal of 25 percent reduction in preventable illness and injuries within a community. Applications (FEMA 75-5) are available on the USFA Web site, <http://www.usfa.fema.gov> <<http://www.usfa.fema.gov>> .

13. PPW Developing Primer on Warning for Local and State Officials

The Partnership for Public Warning (PPW) is developing a primer on public warning for local and state officials who want an introduction to the key issues involved in developing a public warning capacity. The primer identifies the issues that need to be considered in any public warning process, from the audience to the message content to the delivery mechanisms. The primer, now undergoing final editing, will be available for free on the PPW Web site at <http://www.PartnershipForPublicWarning.org> <<http://www.partnershipforpublicwarning.org/>> . For more information on the primer, contact Ken Allen at kballen@ppw.us.

14. CDC Issues Health Advisory on Public Health Precautions Related to Mass Trauma

According to the CDC, based on recent events in Spain and Pakistan, clinicians, hospitals, and public health agencies should ensure that they are prepared to respond to mass trauma related to terrorist bombings. On March 11, 2004, bombs detonated on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain, killing more than 200 people. On March 15, 2004, police successfully disarmed bombs in a van outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. These events raise concerns about the potential for similar attacks that may result in mass trauma in the United States. The CDC encourages public health and

medical care systems to develop and review protocols for the treatment of mass trauma. Information on injuries and stress related to mass trauma can be found on the CDC Mass Trauma Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/masstrauma>.

15. SAFECOM Seeks Input on Improving Spectrum Management

The SAFECOM Program is seeking input from public safety stakeholders on the President's initiative to develop U.S. spectrum policy for the 21st Century. A non-attributable survey by the Department of Commerce is available at http://www.pswn.gov/survey_intro.cfm. The survey takes between 25 and 35 minutes. You are encouraged to share the survey with other stakeholders.

16. NAS Seeking Nominations for Subcommittees

The National Academy of Sciences is collecting nominations for subcommittees on prehospital EMS and on special issues related to pediatric emergency care services. The subcommittees will conduct their work in an integrated fashion with the current Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System. The current IOM committee will also be expanded to include additional prehospital EMS and pediatrics representation. IOM is looking for a variety of expertise and perspectives and will consider all nominees it receives. NASEMSD will be submitting a nomination on behalf of the association. To submit a nominee, send the individual's name and contact information to Shari Erickson at serickson@nas.edu. If possible, include a bio or CV. For further information on this project, visit <http://www.iom.edu/emergencycare>.

17. New CD-ROM on Child Abuse and Neglect Available

At the last NASEMSD Annual Meeting, State Directors indicated an interest in obtaining copies of the new Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine CD-ROM, "Child Abuse and Neglect: A Prehospital Continuing Education and Teaching Resource. It shortly will be available. State EMS Directors may request copies by emailing Marsha Treber at mt31@nyu.edu. Each state director may receive 25 disks to distribute.

18. Upcoming Events

National Public Health Week, April 5-11, 2004. Tools are available at <http://www.apha.org> <<http://www.apha.org/>> .

24th Annual Medical Communications & Health Reporting Conference, April 22-24, 2004, JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort, Golf & Spa, Las Vegas, Nev. Information is

available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/11641.html> < <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/11641.html>> .

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Spring Accreditation Seminar, April 28, 2004, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. Information is available at <http://www.caas.org/> <<http://www.caas.org/>> .

American Telemedicine Association 9th Annual Meeting and Exposition, May 2-5, 2004, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Fla. Information is available at www.americantelemed.org <<http://www.americantelemed.org>> .

Optimizing Emergency Department Management, May 24-25, 2004 The Wyndham Tremont, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.worldrg.com/> .

Rural-Frontier EMS Summit, May 26, 2004, San Diego, Calif. Held in conjunction with the NRHA Convention. Information is available at <http://www.nrharural.org/EMSagenda/> or contact EliBriggs@NRHArural.org.

Hospital Emergency Management Strategies, May 26-27, 2004, Tremont Hotel, Boston, Mass. Information is available at <http://www.worldrg.com/>.

2004 Defense Medical R & D and Procurement Conference, June 21-23, 2004, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Md. Information is available at <http://www.marketaccess.org/MEDCONF.asp> < <http://www.marketaccess.org/MEDCONF.asp>> .

NASEMSD Mid-Year Meeting, June 26-27, 2004, Washington, DC. Program and registration details are available at <http://www.nasemsd.org/> < <http://www.nasemsd.org/>> .

The 2004 Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Annual Meeting : "Highway Safety – Priority 1.0", Sept. 25-29, 2004, Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org> <<http://www.ghsa.org>> .

ASTHO 2004 Annual Meeting: "Communication, Cooperation, Coordination – Building Bridges in Public Health", Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2004, St. Paul, Minn. Information is available at <http://www.astho.org/> <<http://www.astho.org/>> .

Drive for Live, 2004 MADD National Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas. Information is available at <http://www.madd.org/>.